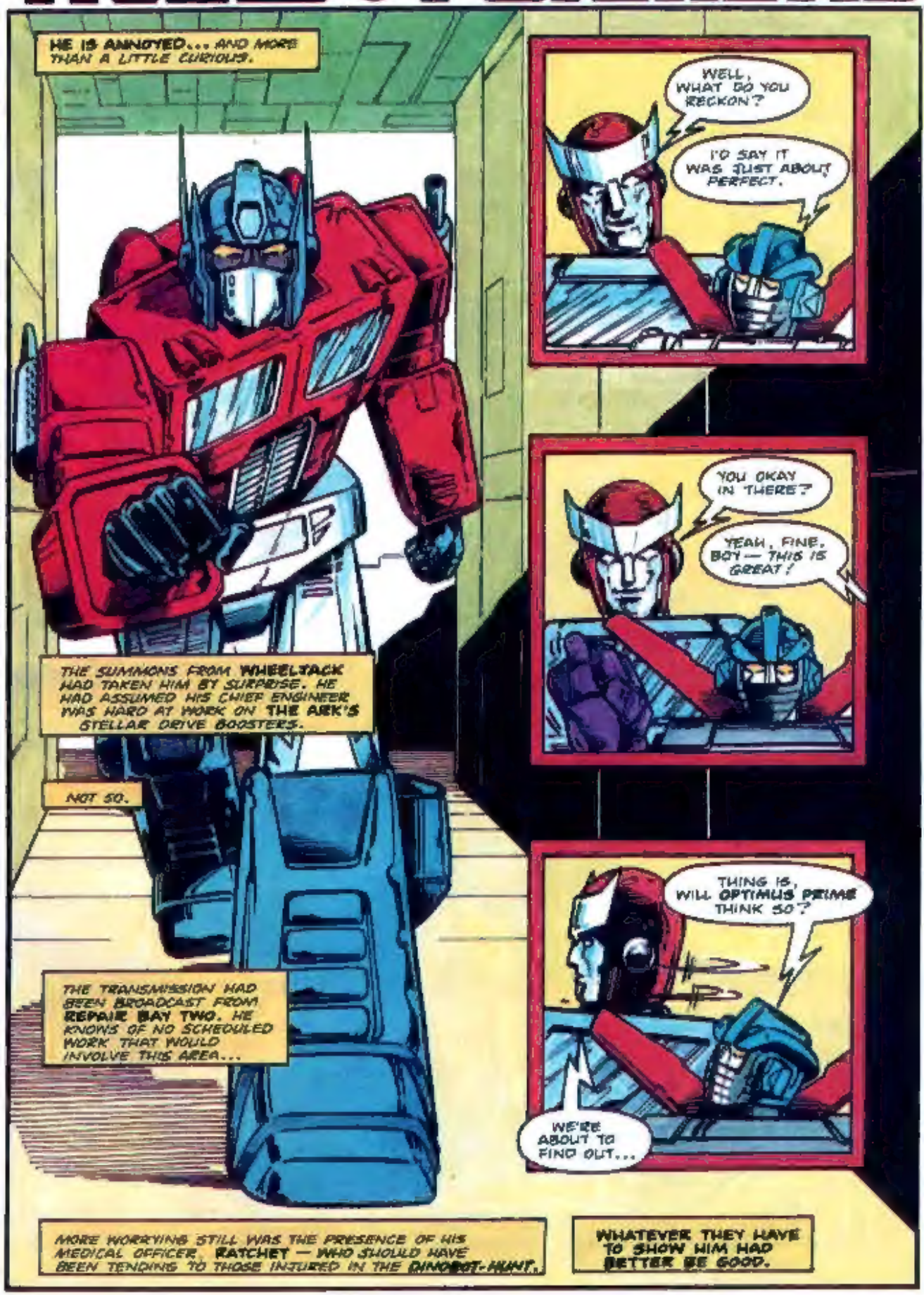
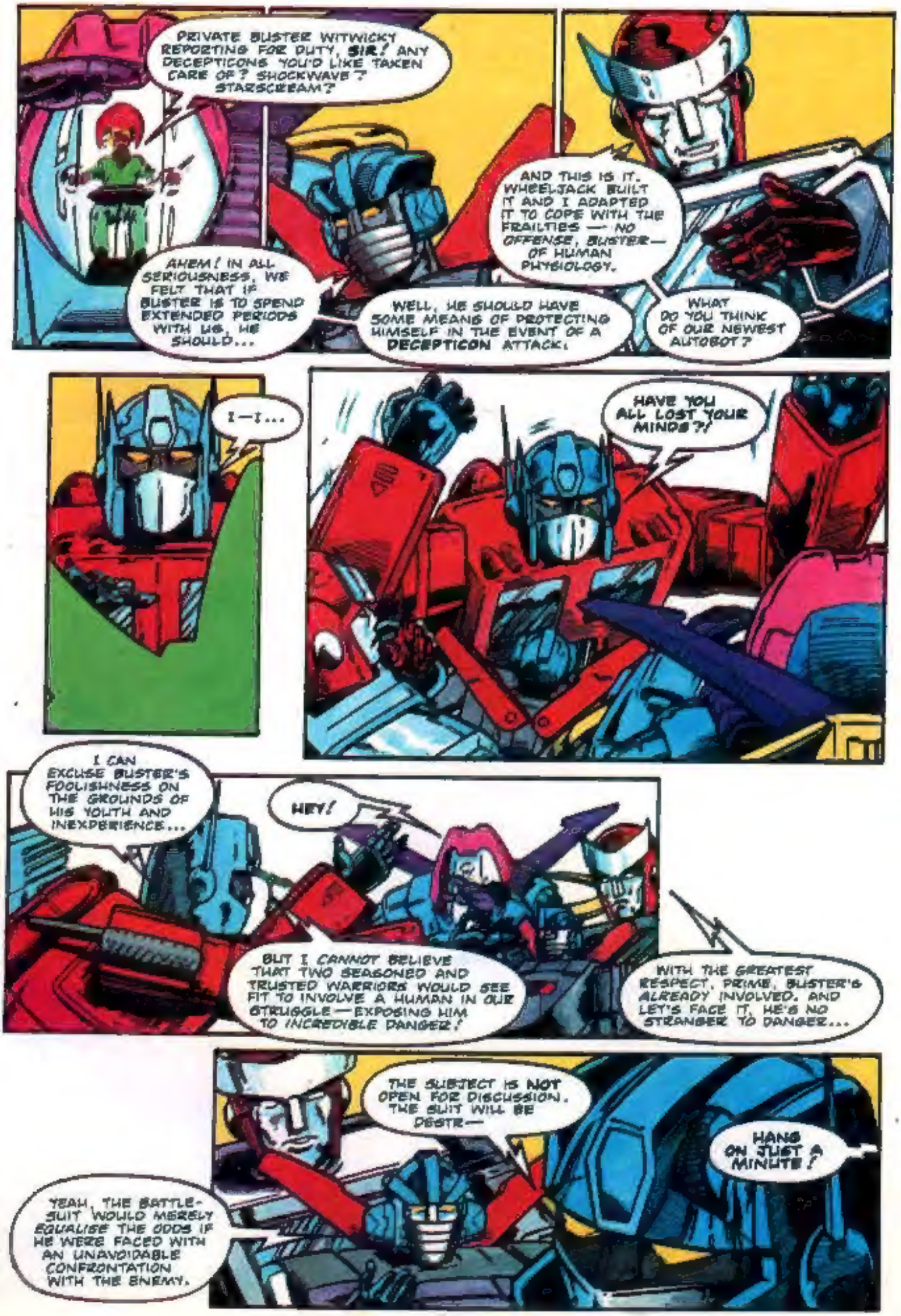
THE TRANSFORMERS™

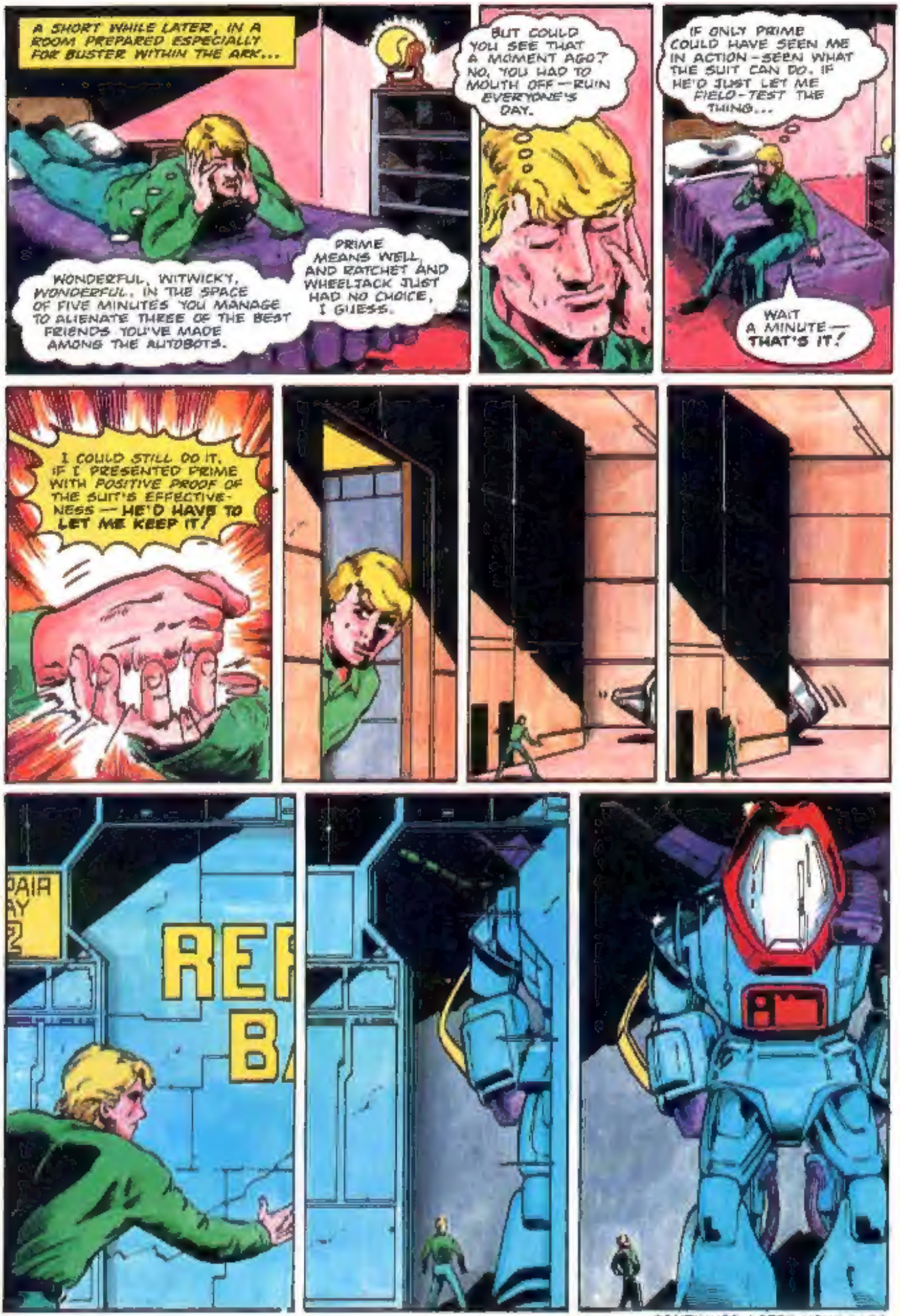
HEROIC AUTOBOT


HE IS ANNOYED... AND MORE THAN A LITTLE CURIOUS.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU RECKON?
I'D SAY IT WAS JUST ABOUT PERFECT.
YOU OKAY IN THERE?
YEAH, FINE, BOY — THIS IS GREAT!
THE SUMMONS FROM WHEELJACK HAD TAKEN HIM BY SURPRISE. HE HAD ASSUMED HIS CHIEF ENGINEER WAS HARD AT WORK ON THE ARK'S STELLAR DRIVE BOOSTERS.
NOT SO.
THE TRANSMISSION HAD BEEN BROADCAST FROM REPAIR BAY TWO. HE KNOWS OF NO SCHEDULED WORK THAT WOULD INVOLVE THIS AREA...
THING IS, WILL OPTIMUS PRIME THINK SO?
WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT...
MORE WORRYING STILL WAS THE PRESENCE OF HIS MEDICAL OFFICER, RATCHET — WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN TENDING TO THOSE INJURED IN THE DINOBOT-HUNT.
WHATEVER THEY HAVE TO SHOW HIM HAD BETTER BE GOOD.

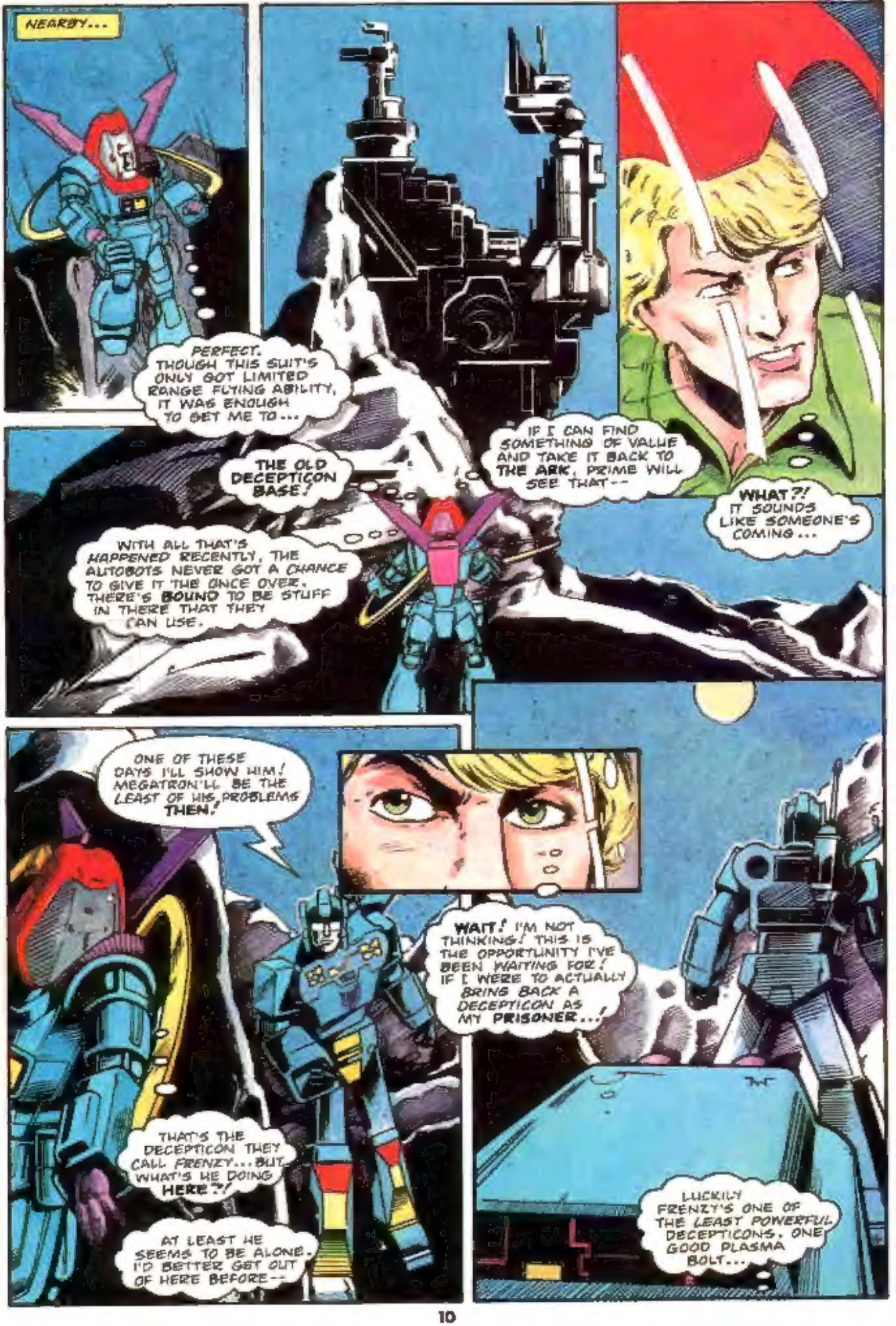
BECAUSE HERE HE IS!
INDEED I AM, RATCHET... AND IF I FIND YOU HAVE WASTED BOTH MY TIME AND YOUR VALUABLE SKILLS, YOU WILL WISH I...
WAS...
NOT...
BY THE ARGON NEBULAE!
B-BUSTER?
HI, OPTIMUS!
ROBOT BUSTER!
STORY
SIMON FURMAN
PLOT IDEA / ARTWORK
BARRY KITSON
COLOURS
JOSIE FIRMIN
LETTERS
ANNIE HALFACREE
EDITOR
IAN RIMMER


PRIVATE BUSTER WITWICKY REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR! ANY DECEPTICONS YOU'D LIKE TAKEN CARE OF? SHOCKWAVE? STARSCREAM?
AHEM! IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, WE FELT THAT IF BUSTER IS TO SPEND EXTENDED PERIODS WITH US, HE SHOULD...
AND THIS IS IT. WHEELJACK BUILT IT AND I ADAPTED IT TO COPE WITH THE FRAILTIES — NO OFFENSE, BUSTER— OF HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY.
WELL, HE SHOULD HAVE SOME MEANS OF PROTECTING HIMSELF IN THE EVENT OF A DECEPTICON ATTACK.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR NEWEST AUTOBOT?
I—I...
HAVE YOU ALL LOST YOUR MINDS?!
I CAN EXCUSE BUSTER'S FOOLISHNESS ON THE GROUNDS OF HIS YOUTH AND INEXPERIENCE...
HEY!
BUT I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT TWO SEASONED AND TRUSTED WARRIORS WOULD SEE FIT TO INVOLVE A HUMAN IN OUR STRUGGLE—EXPOSING HIM TO INCREDIBLE DANGER!
WITH THE GREATEST RESPECT, PRIME, BUSTER'S ALREADY INVOLVED. AND LET'S FACE IT, HE'S NO STRANGER TO DANGER...
THE SUBJECT IS NOT OPEN FOR DISCUSSION. THE SUIT WILL BE DESTR—
HANG ON JUST A MINUTE!
YEAH, THE BATTLE-SUIT WOULD MERELY EQUALISE THE ODDS IF HE WERE FACED WITH AN UNAVOIDABLE CONFRONTATION WITH THE ENEMY.

WHAT'S ALL THIS 'WITH GREATEST RESPECT' STUFF? I'LL TELL YOU STRAIGHT, PRIME — YOU OWE ME!
I CARRIED YOUR PRECIOUS CREATION MATRIX AROUND IN MY HEAD FOR WEEKS, AND THEN — WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE SHOCKWAVE HAD YOU BEAT — I PULLED YOUR FAT OUT OF THE FIRE!
AND IF YOU WON'T ALLOW ME THE SIMPLE HONOUR OF FIGHTING WITH THE AUTOBOTS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING IN RETURN, THEN...
YOU STINK, PRIME!
I AM DEEPLY SORRY THAT YOU FEEL THIS WAY, BUSTER, BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO RISK YOURSELF IN THIS FASHION. I HAVE ALREADY INVOLVED YOU IN OUR WAR FAR MORE THAN I WOULD WISH...
RATCHET, WHEELJACK — DESTROY THE SUIT.
SO THAT'S IT, HUH? PRIME HATH SPOKEN... END OF DISCUSSION. I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO CHANCE OF YOU TWO DISOBEYING ORDERS?
WHATEVER FEELINGS WE MAY HARBOUR TO THE CONTRARY, BUSTER, HE IS OUR LEADER, AND...
YEAH, YEAH... TELL ME SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW!
BUT TELL ME THIS...
"WHO GIVES HIM THE RIGHT TO TELL ME WHAT I THINK IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR?"
WE SHOULD GET TO WORK ON DISMANTLING THE SUIT...
TOMORROW?
TOMORROW.

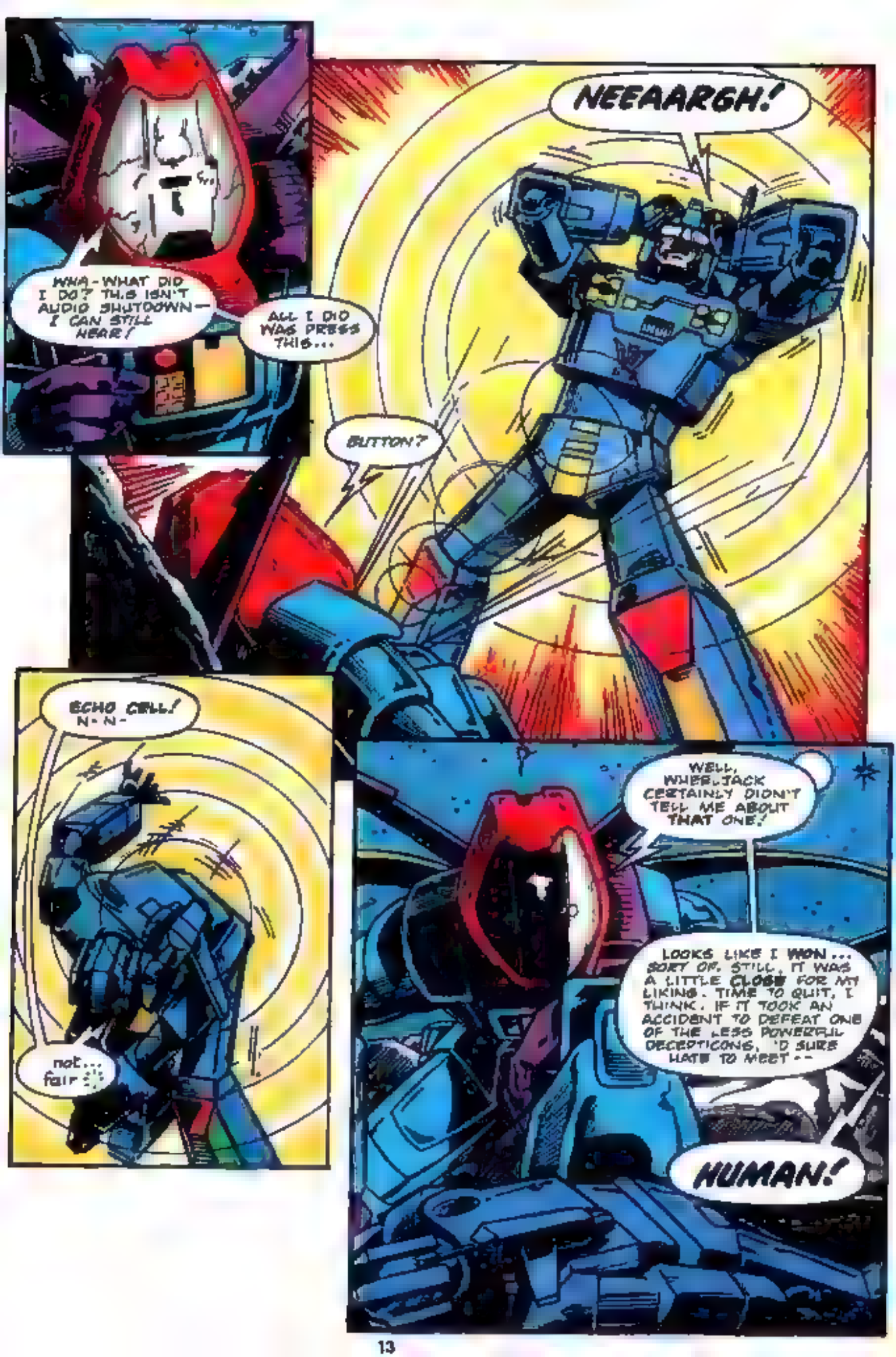

A SHORT WHILE LATER, IN A ROOM PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR BUSTER WITHIN THE ARK...
WONDERFUL, WITWICKY, WONDERFUL. IN THE SPACE OF FIVE MINUTES YOU MANAGE TO ALIENATE THREE OF THE BEST FRIENDS YOU'VE MADE AMONG THE AUTOBOTS.
PRIME MEANS WELL, AND RATCHET AND WHEELJACK JUST HAD NO CHOICE, I GUESS.
BUT COULD YOU SEE THAT A MOMENT AGO? NO, YOU HAD TO MOUTH OFF — RUIN EVERYONE'S DAY.
IF ONLY PRIME COULD HAVE SEEN ME IN ACTION — SEEN WHAT THE SUIT CAN DO. IF HE'D JUST LET ME FIELD-TEST THE THING...
WAIT A MINUTE — THAT'S IT!
I COULD STILL DO IT, IF I PRESENTED PRIME WITH POSITIVE PROOF OF THE SUIT'S EFFECTIVENESS — HE'D HAVE TO LET ME KEEP IT!
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

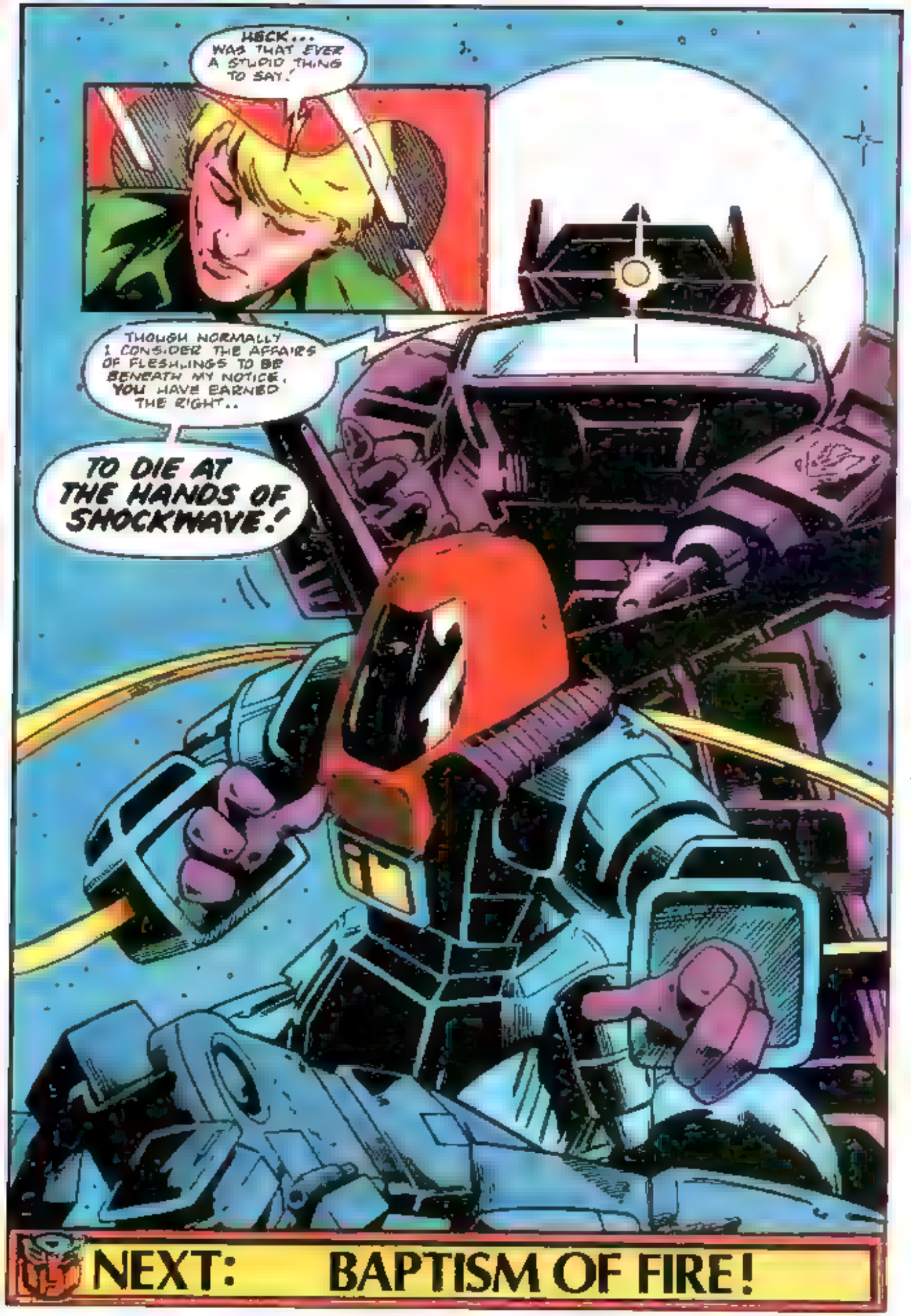
LIKE SOME GAUNT, SINISTER SPECTRE IT PAINTS ITSELF BLACK AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY, THOUGH DESERTED, IT REMAINS UNTOUCHED — A LASTING TESTAMENT TO THE WARPED GENIUS OF ITS CREATOR... MEGATRON.
WHICH IS WHY TONIGHT IT PLAYS HOST TO TWO VISITORS...
IS THIS REALLY NECESSARY?
I MEAN, WHY NOT JUST DESTROY THE PLACE AND BE DONE WITH IT?
BECAUSE, FRENZY, MUCH OF THE MACHINERY IN THIS CHAMBER CAN BE SALVAGED. IT IS ILLOGICAL TO WASTE SUCH READILY AVAILABLE RESOURCES.
NOW — TAKE THOSE COMPONENTS CLEAR OF THIS STRUCTURE...
AND THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE QUESTIONING MY JUDGEMENT IN FUTURE!
HA! THIS JUNK IS WORTHLESS. ALL THAT SUPERB LOGIC CAN'T DISGUISE THE SIMPLE FACT...
HE'S FRIGHTENED!
FOR ALL HIS VAUNTED POWER, THE RUMOUR THAT MEGATRON'S ACTUALLY RETURNED HAS GOT HIM RUNNING SCARED EMOTION... WHO'DA THOUGHT IT!
STILL I HAVE TO ADMIT, IT SURE IS SATISFYING WATCHING HIM JUMP ABOUT — TRYING TO EXORCISE HIS PERSONAL DEMON BY WIPIN' OUT ANYTHING MEGATRON HAD A HAND IN CREATING.
BUT IT'S A ROYAL PAIN HUMPIN' THIS STUFF AROUND...
BOY — DO I NEED TO HIT SOMETHING!


NEARBY...
PERFECT. THOUGH THIS SUIT'S ONLY GOT LIMITED RANGE FLYING ABILITY, IT WAS ENOUGH TO GET ME TO...
THE OLD DECEPTICON BASE!
WITH ALL THAT'S HAPPENED RECENTLY, THE AUTOBOTS NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO GIVE IT THE ONCE OVER. THERE'S BOUND TO BE STUFF IN THERE THAT THEY CAN USE.
IF I CAN FIND SOMETHING OF VALUE AND TAKE IT BACK TO THE ARK, PRIME WILL SEE THAT--
WHAT?! IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S COMING...
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL SHOW HIM! MEGATRON'LL BE THE LEAST OF HIS PROBLEMS THEN!
THAT'S THE DECEPTICON THEY CALL FRENZY... BUT WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
AT LEAST HE SEEMS TO BE ALONE. I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE--
WAIT! I'M NOT THINKING! THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! IF I WERE TO ACTUALLY BRING BACK A DECEPTICON AS MY PRISONER...!
LUCKILY FRENZY'S ONE OF THE LEAST POWERFUL DECEPTICONS. ONE GOOD PLASMA BOLT...

AAARGH!
SHROOM
SHRAA
SHOULD FINISH HIM!
HEY! HOW ABOUT THAT? I GOT HIM!
NOTHING TO IT. WITH ME ON THEIR SIDE THE AUTOBOTS'LL SOON --
A HUMAN!

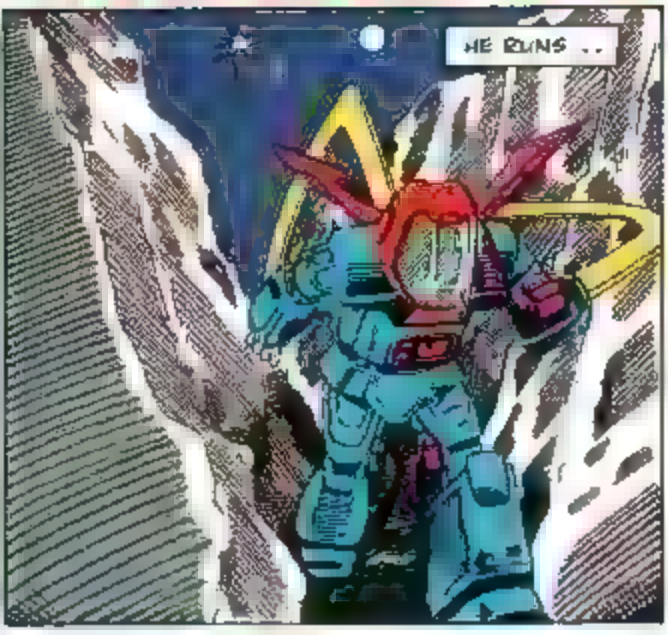
A HUMAN?!
NNNUAH!
SHREEEEEE
TH-THAT NOISE! CAN'T... STAND... IT... GOT TO SHUT... DOWN AUDIO!
C-CAN'T REACH... BLACKING... OUT...
EEEEEEEEE
I'LL MAKE YOU SUFFER LIKE NO CREATURE HAS EVER SUFFERED BEFORE! I'LL FLAY THAT METAL FRAME FROM YOUR BODY... THE SKIN FROM YOUR BONE! YOUR DYING SCREAMS WILL--
W-WHAT THE-?!
KLIK!
I'M BROADCASTING AT FULL STRENGTH AND NOTHING'S HAPPENING!
EEEEEE

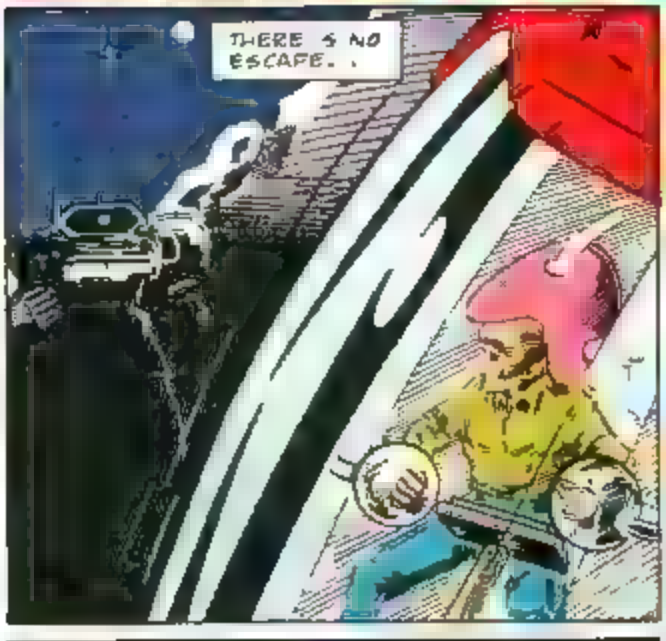

WHA-WHAT DID I DO? THIS ISN'T AUDIO SHUTDOWN— I CAN STILL HEAR!
ALL I DID WAS PRESS THIS...
BUTTON?
NEEAARGH!
ECHO CELL! N-N-
not... fair...
WELL, WHEELJACK CERTAINLY DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT ONE!
LOOKS LIKE I WON... SORT OF. STILL, IT WAS A LITTLE CLOSE FOR MY LIKING. TIME TO QUIT, I THINK. IF IT TOOK AN ACCIDENT TO DEFEAT ONE OF THE LESS POWERFUL DECEPTICONS, I'D SURE HATE TO MEET--
HUMAN!

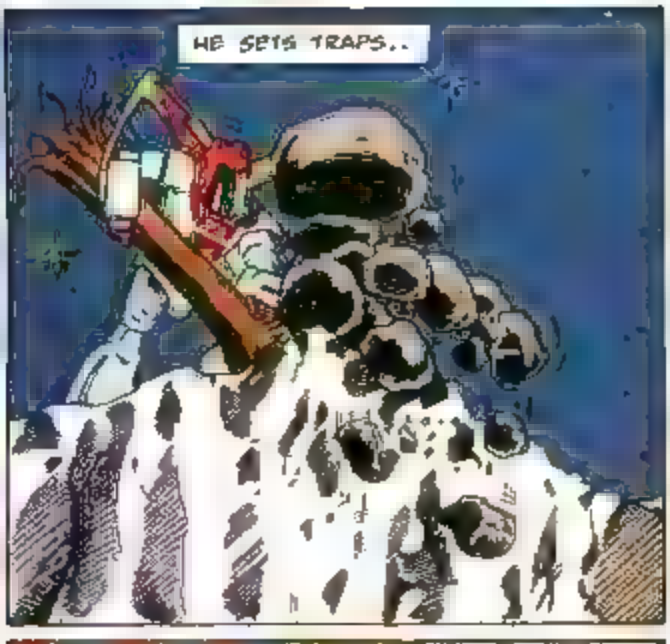

HECK... WAS THAT EVER A STUPID THING TO SAY.
THOUGH NORMALLY I CONSIDER THE AFFAIRS OF FLESHLINGS TO BE BENEATH MY NOTICE, YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT..
TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF SHOCKWAVE!
NEXT: BAPTISM OF FIRE!

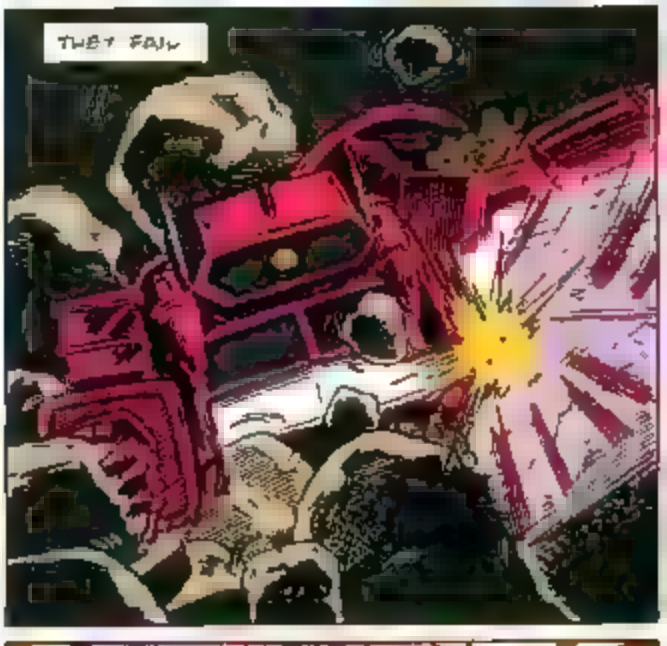
MARVEL
10th May 84
№460 30p
THE TRANSFORMERS
HEROIC
AUTOBOT

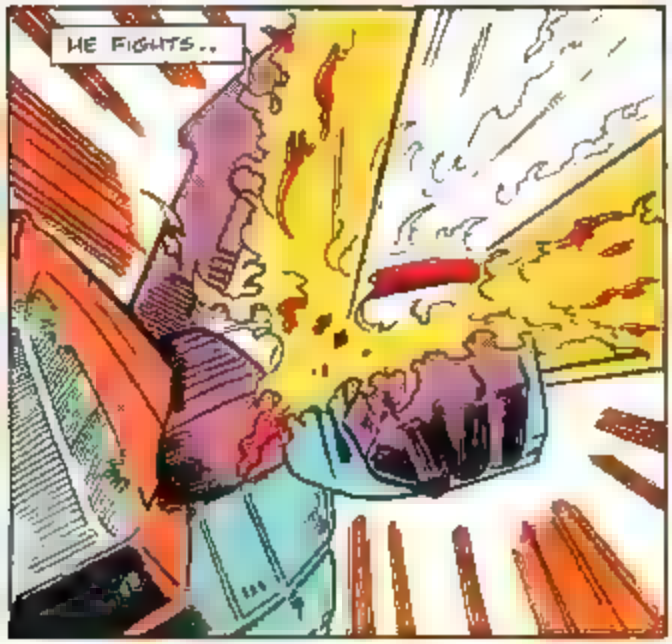
TRANSFORMERS™

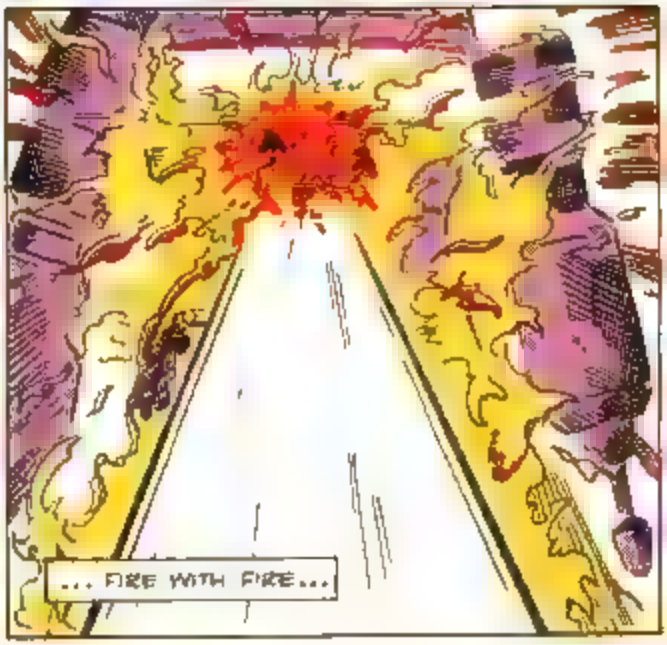




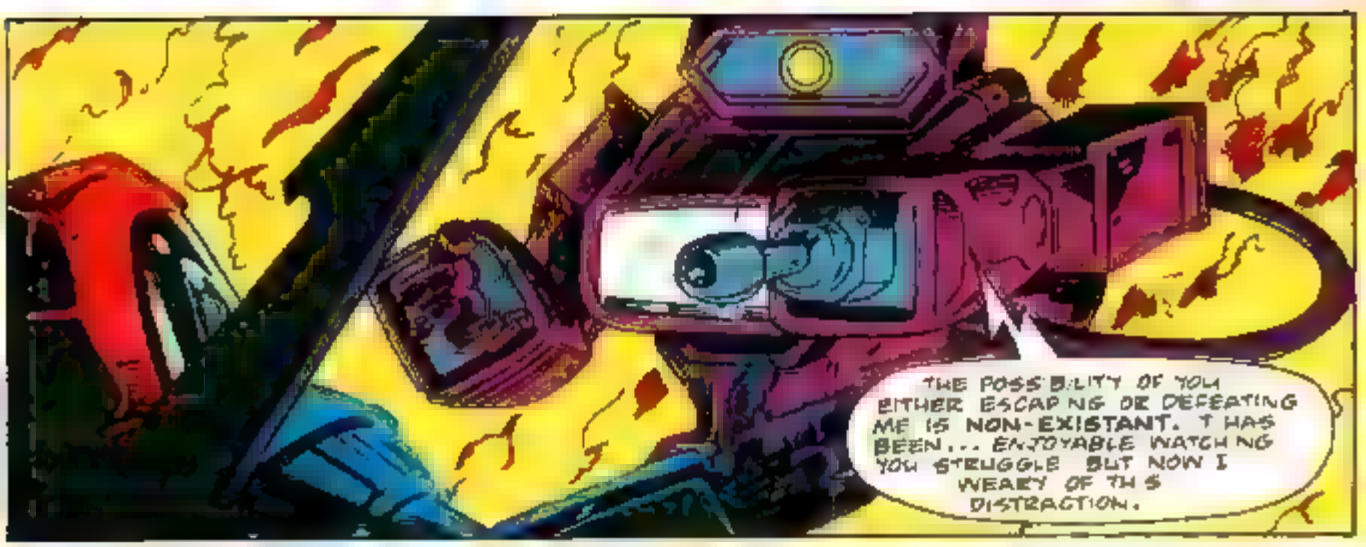


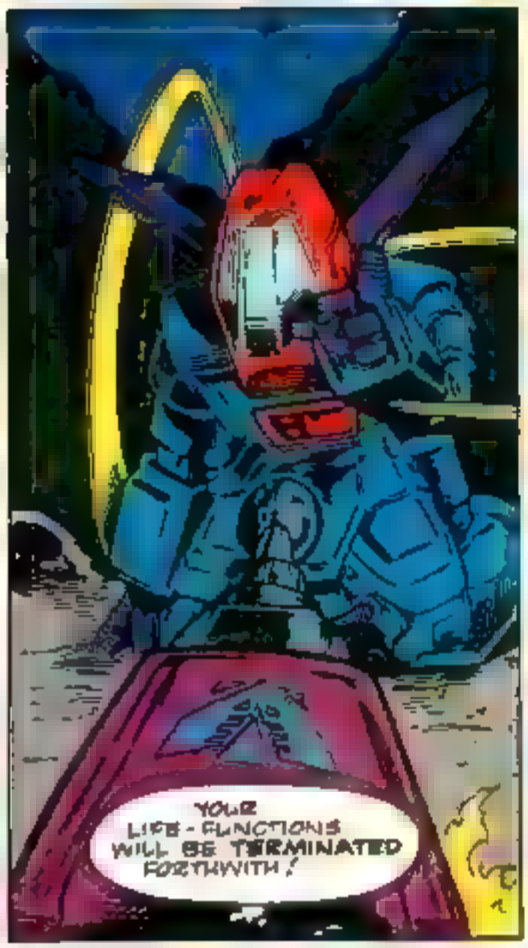




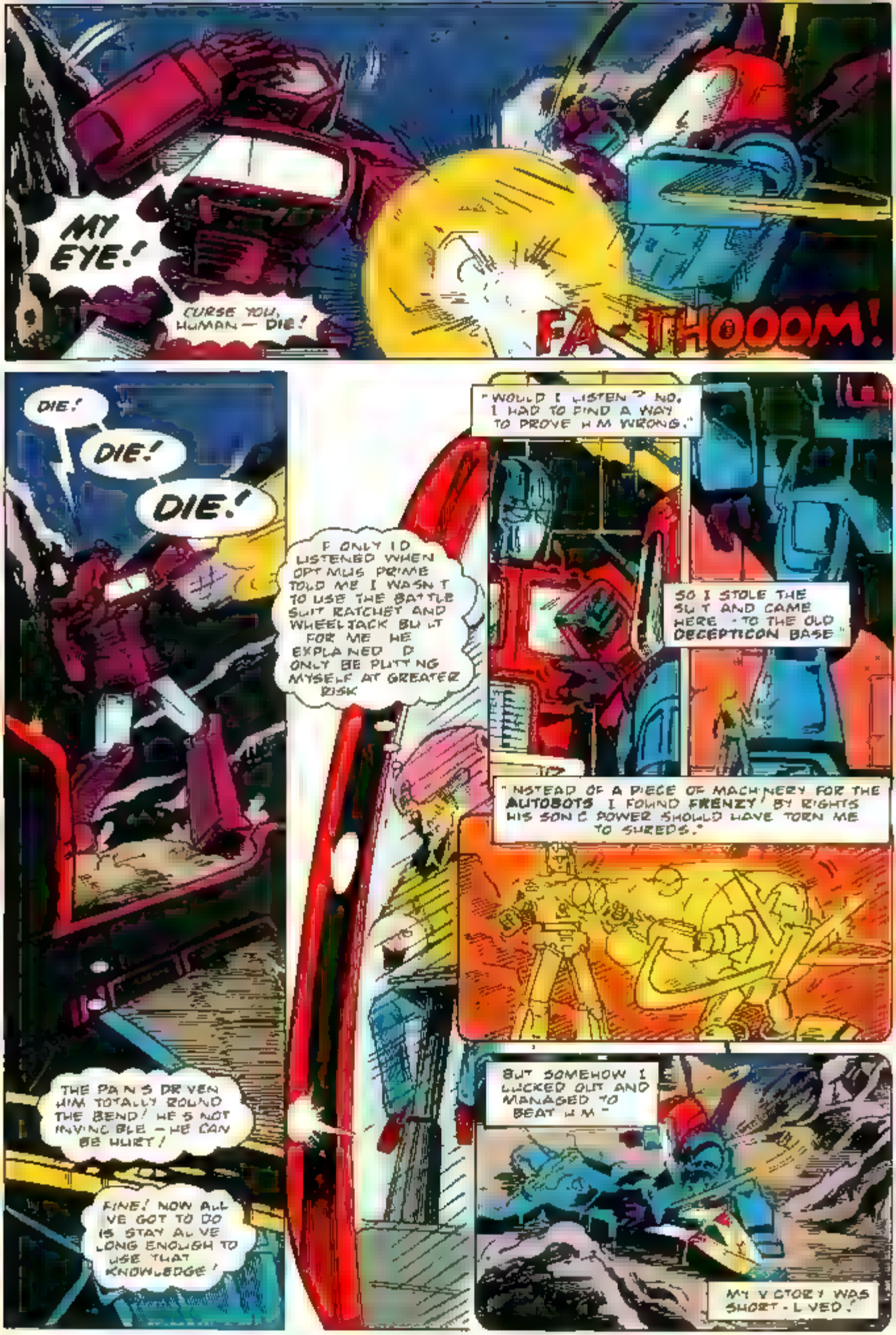


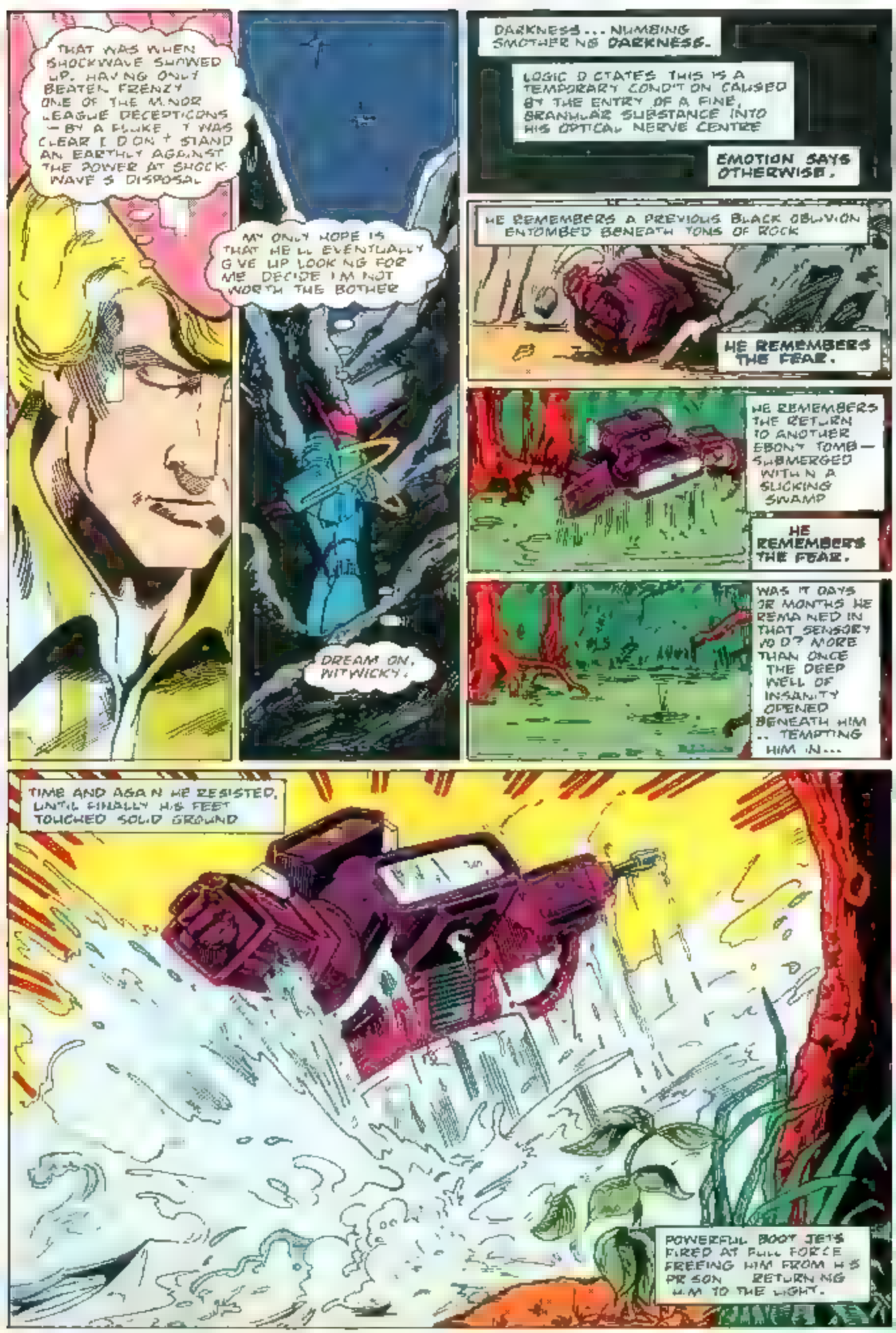
IT IS FUTILE.
AGAINST SHOCKWAVE, BUSTER WITWICKY HAS NO DEFENSE
HUMAN!
AT BEST, YOU MERELY DELAY THE INEVITABLE — YOUR DEATH!
ROBOT BUSTER! PART 2
STORY: SIMON FURMAN
PLOT/PENCILS: BARRY KITSON
INKS: TIM PERKINS
COLOURS: T.M. COOKS
LETTERS: ANNIE HALFACREE
EDITS: IAN RIMMER

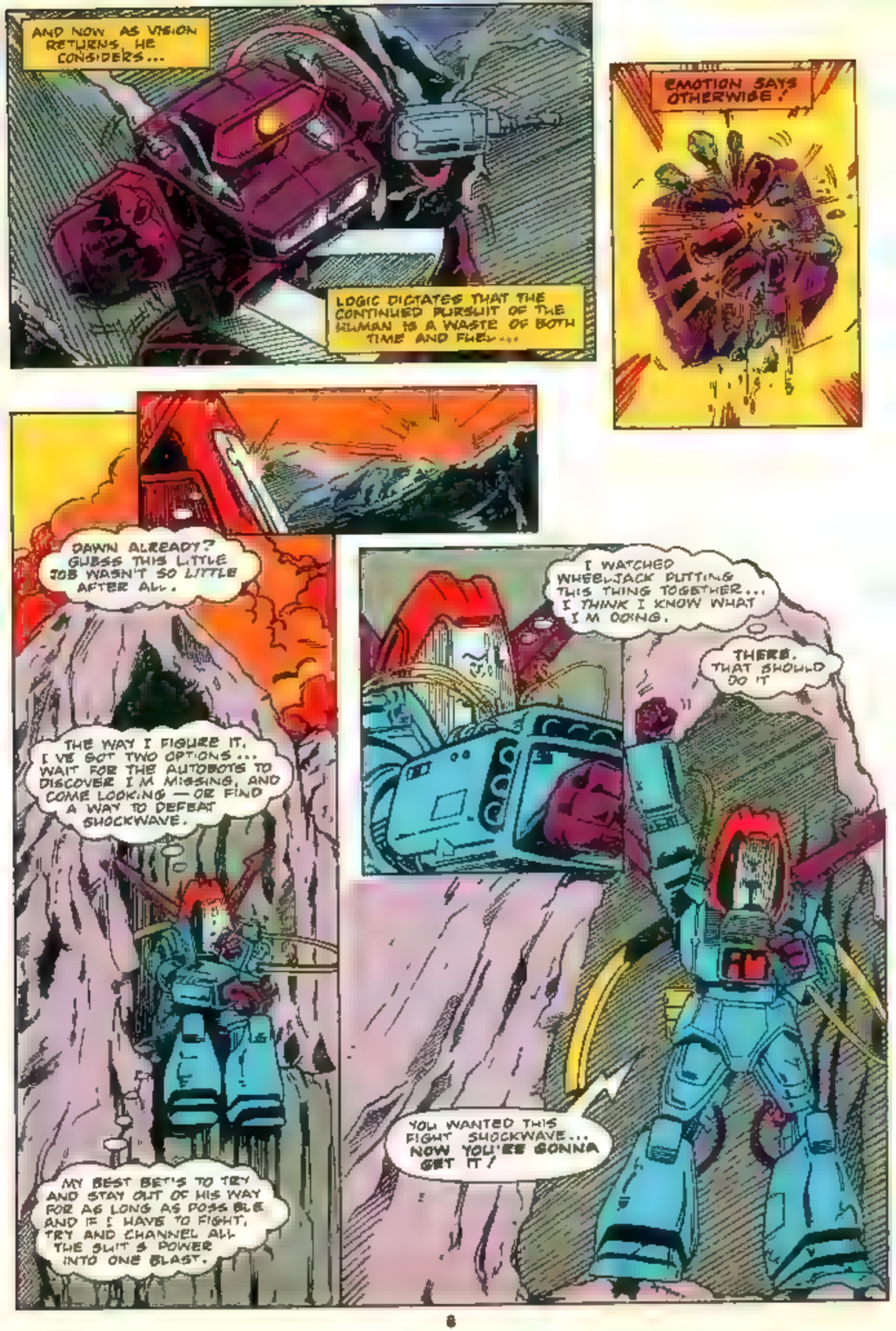

THE POSSIBILITY OF YOU EITHER ESCAPING OR DEFEATING ME IS NON-EXISTANT. IT HAS BEEN... ENJOYABLE WATCHING YOU STRUGGLE BUT NOW I WEARY OF THIS DISTRACTION.

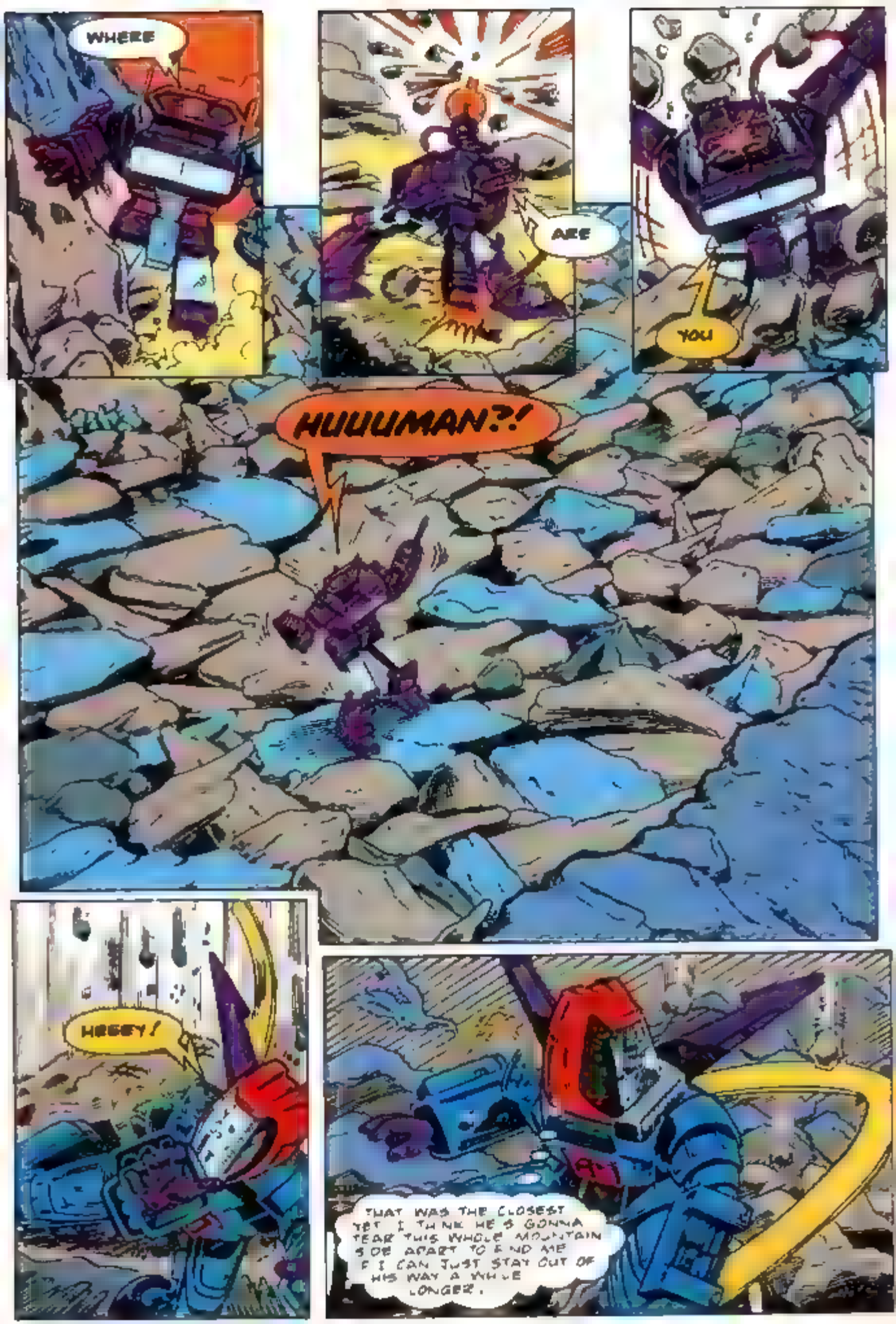


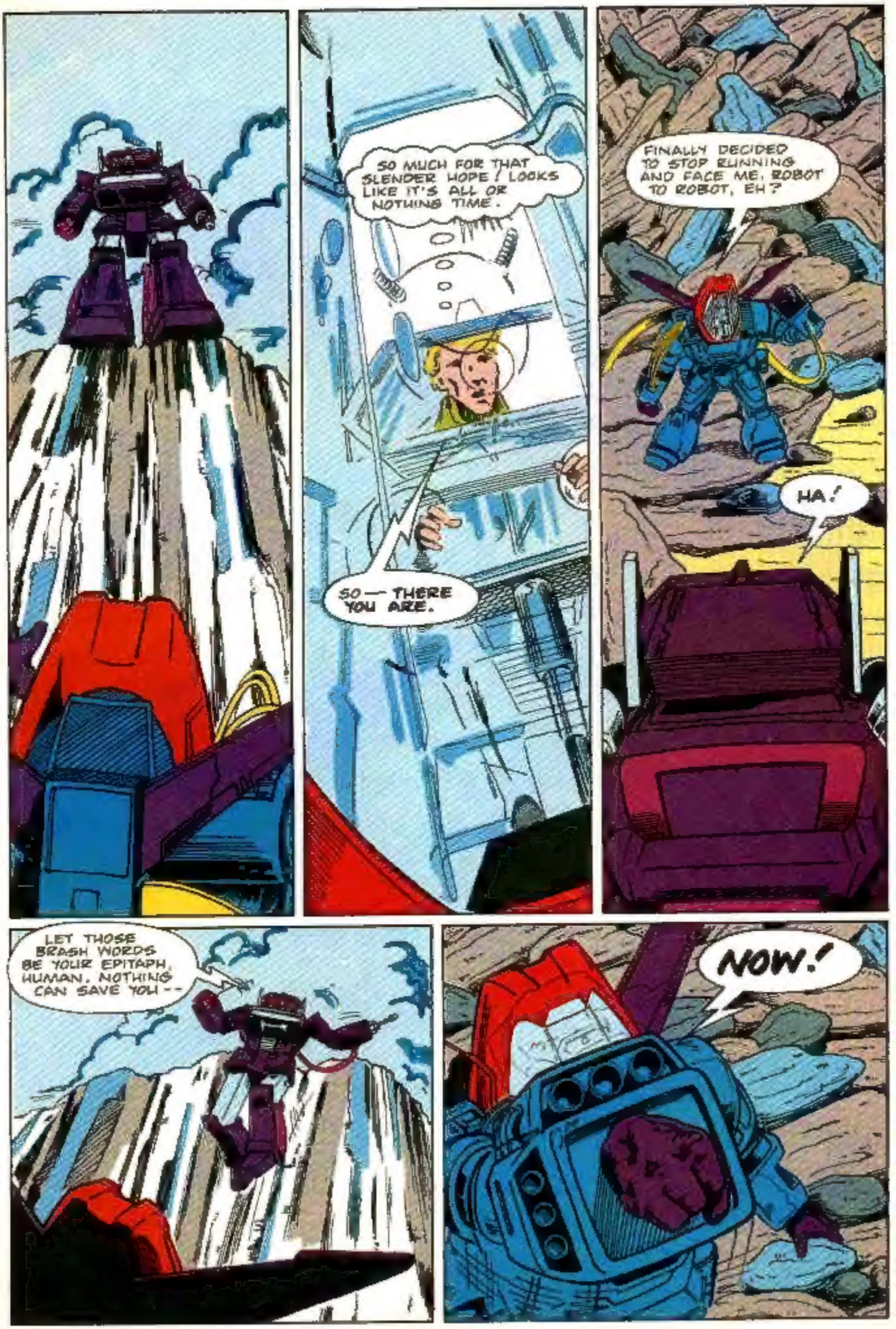
ACCEPTANCE AND DISBELIEF COLLIDE HAPHAZARDLY WITHIN BUSTER'S TERROR FILLED MIND; THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING — THIS IS HAPPENING — THIS IS A DREAM — THIS IS REAL. HE IS SAFELY HOME IN BED — HE IS ABOUT TO DIE AT THE HANDS OF A CRAZED ROBOT...


MY EYE!
CURSE YOU, HUMAN — DIE!
FA-THOOOM!
DIE!
DIE!
DIE!
IF ONLY I'D LISTENED WHEN OPTIMUS PRIME TOLD ME I WASN'T TO USE THE BATTLE SUIT RATCHET AND WHEELJACK BUILT FOR ME. HE EXPLAINED I'D ONLY BE PUTTING MYSELF AT GREATER RISK.
"WOULD I LISTEN? NO. I HAD TO FIND A WAY TO PROVE HIM WRONG."
SO I STOLE THE SUIT AND CAME HERE - TO THE OLD DECEPTICON BASE."
"INSTEAD OF A PIECE OF MACHINERY FOR THE AUTOBOTS I FOUND FRENZY. BY RIGHTS HIS SONIC POWER SHOULD HAVE TORN ME TO SHREDS."
THE PAIN'S DRIVEN HIM TOTALLY ROUND THE BEND! HE'S NOT INVINCIBLE - HE CAN BE HURT!
FINE! NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS STAY ALIVE LONG ENOUGH TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE!
BUT SOMEHOW I LUCKED OUT AND MANAGED TO BEAT HIM."
MY VICTORY WAS SHORT-LIVED.


THAT WAS WHEN SHOCKWAVE SHOWED UP. HAVING ONLY BEATEN FRENZY ONE OF THE MINOR LEAGUE DECEPTICONS — BY A FLUKE — I WAS CLEAR I DON'T STAND AN EARTHLY AGAINST THE POWER OF SHOCKWAVE'S DISPOSAL
MY ONLY HOPE IS THAT HE'LL EVENTUALLY GIVE UP LOOKING FOR ME DECIDE I'M NOT WORTH THE BOTHER
DREAM ON, WITWICKY.
DARKNESS... NUMBING SMOTHERING DARKNESS.
LOGIC DICTATES THIS IS A TEMPORARY CONDITION CAUSED BY THE ENTRY OF A FINE, GRANULAR SUBSTANCE INTO HIS OPTICAL NERVE CENTRE
EMOTION SAYS OTHERWISE.
HE REMEMBERS A PREVIOUS BLACK OBLIVION ENTOMBED BENEATH TONS OF ROCK
HE REMEMBERS THE FEAR.
HE REMEMBERS THE RETURN TO ANOTHER EBONY TOMB — SUBMERGED WITHIN A SUCKING SWAMP
HE REMEMBERS THE FEAR.
WAS IT DAYS OR MONTHS HE REMAINED IN THAT SENSORY VOID? MORE THAN ONCE THE DEEP WELL OF INSANITY OPENED BENEATH HIM .. TEMPTING HIM IN...
TIME AND AGAIN HE RESISTED, UNTIL FINALLY HIS FEET TOUCHED SOLID GROUND
POWERFUL BOOT JETS FIRED AT FULL FORCE FREEING HIM FROM HIS PRISON RETURNING HIM TO THE LIGHT.

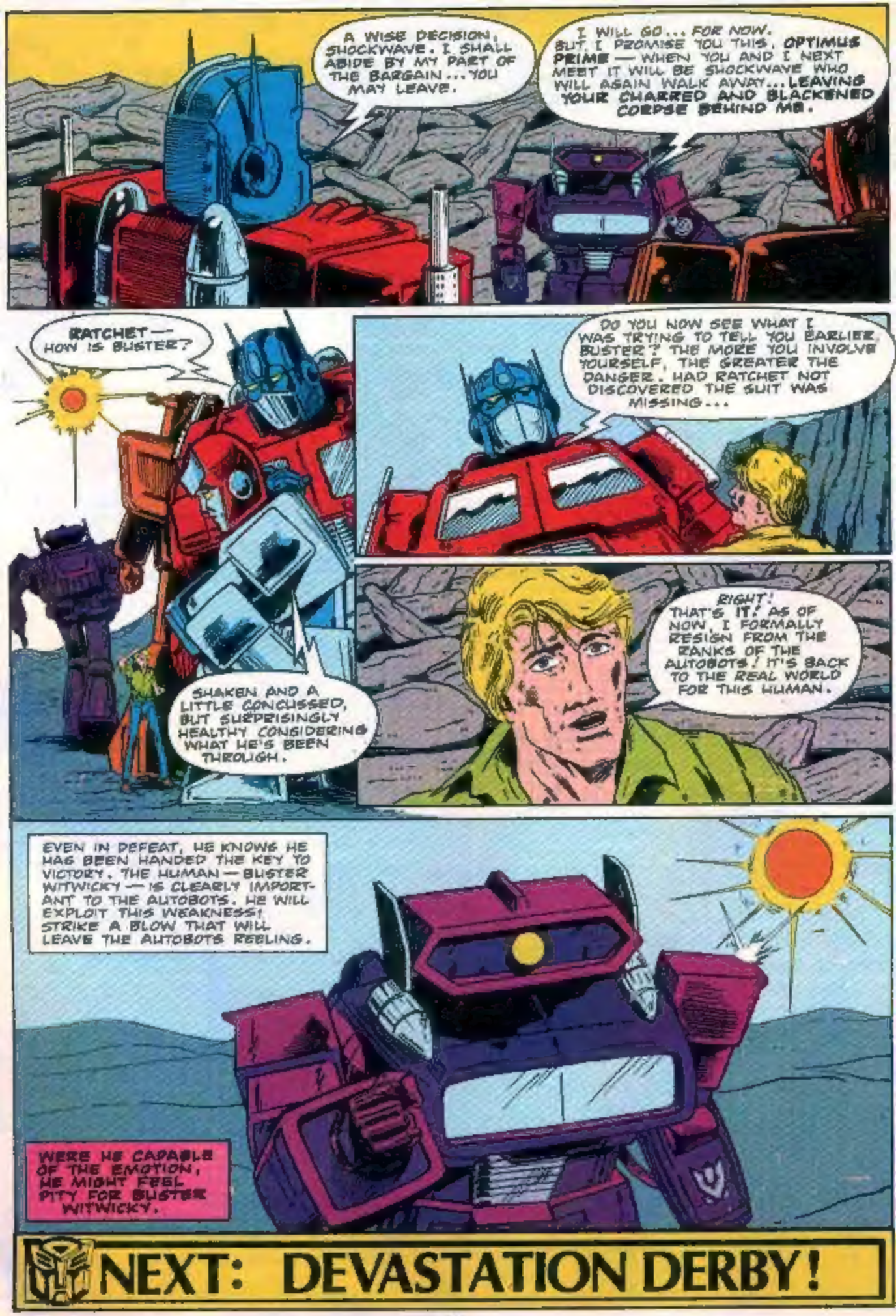

AND NOW, AS VISION RETURNS, HE CONSIDERS...
LOGIC DICTATES THAT THE CONTINUED PURSUIT OF THE HUMAN IS A WASTE OF BOTH TIME AND FUEL...
EMOTION SAYS OTHERWISE!
DAWN ALREADY? GUESS THIS LITTLE JOB WASN'T SO LITTLE AFTER ALL.
THE WAY I FIGURE IT, I'VE GOT TWO OPTIONS... WAIT FOR THE AUTOBOTS TO DISCOVER I'M MISSING, AND COME LOOKING — OR FIND A WAY TO DEFEAT SHOCKWAVE.
MY BEST BET'S TO TRY AND STAY OUT OF HIS WAY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND IF I HAVE TO FIGHT, TRY AND CHANNEL ALL THE SUIT'S POWER INTO ONE BLAST.
I WATCHED WHEELJACK PUTTING THIS THING TOGETHER... I THINK I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
THERE. THAT SHOULD DO IT
YOU WANTED THIS FIGHT SHOCKWAVE... NOW YOU'RE GONNA GET IT!


WHERE
ARE
YOU
HUUUMAN?!
HEEEY!
THAT WAS THE CLOSEST YET. I THINK HE'S GONNA TEAR THIS WHOLE MOUNTAIN SIDE APART TO FIND ME IF I CAN JUST STAY OUT OF HIS WAY A WHILE LONGER.


SO MUCH FOR THAT SLENDER HOPE! LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL OR NOTHING TIME.
SO — THERE YOU ARE.
FINALLY DECIDED TO STOP RUNNING AND FACE ME, ROBOT TO ROBOT, EH?
HA!
LET THOSE BRASH WORDS BE YOUR EPITAPH, HUMAN. NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU --
NOW!

AAAARGH!
CHOK
THAK-A-ROM!
OOOH... OBOY, I MUST BE ALIVE — DEATH COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THIS PAINFUL!
WH- WHAT HAPPENED? DID I GET HIM? I KNOW I HIT HIM, BUT --
DEAR LORD — NO!
N — AACCK!

I AM —UNNGH— ALMOST IMPRESSED, FLESHLING. BUT HOWEVER MIGHTY YOUR WEAPONRY MAY BE, IT STILL PALES BEFORE THE POWER OF SHOCKWAVE.
IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR CREDITABLE STRUGGLE I SHALL MAKE YOUR DEATH SWIFT...
AAAAAAH!
AND EXCEUCIATINGLY PAINFUL!
STOP!
SHOCKWAVE — THE HUMAN YOU HOLD IS UNDER AUTOBOT PROTECTION!
RELEASE HIM AND YOU CAN LEAVE. HARM HIM IN ANY WAY AND WE WILL OPEN FIRE. NOT EVEN YOU COULD SURVIVE OUR COMBINED FIREPOWER.
YOUR LIFE FOR BUSTER WITWICKY'S. IT IS LOGICAL, IS IT NOT?
HUUNGH!


A WISE DECISION, SHOCKWAVE. I SHALL ABIDE BY MY PART OF THE BARGAIN... YOU MAY LEAVE.
I WILL GO... FOR NOW. BUT, I PROMISE YOU THIS, OPTIMUS PRIME — WHEN YOU AND I NEXT MEET IT WILL BE SHOCKWAVE WHO WILL AGAIN WALK AWAY... LEAVING YOUR CHARRED AND BLACKENED CORPSE BEHIND ME.
RATCHET — HOW IS BUSTER?
DO YOU NOW SEE WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL YOU EARLIER, BUSTER? THE MORE YOU INVOLVE YOURSELF, THE GREATER THE DANGER. HAD RATCHET NOT DISCOVERED THE SUIT WAS MISSING...
SHAKEN AND A LITTLE CONCUSSED, BUT SURPRISINGLY HEALTHY CONSIDERING WHAT HE'S BEEN THROUGH.
RIGHT! THAT'S IT! AS OF NOW, I FORMALLY RESIGN FROM THE RANKS OF THE AUTOBOTS! IT'S BACK TO THE REAL WORLD FOR THIS HUMAN.
EVEN IN DEFEAT, HE KNOWS HE HAS BEEN HANDED THE KEY TO VICTORY. THE HUMAN — BUSTER WITWICKY — IS CLEARLY IMPORTANT TO THE AUTOBOTS. HE WILL EXPLOIT THIS WEAKNESS! STRIKE A BLOW THAT WILL LEAVE THE AUTOBOTS REELING.
WERE HE CAPABLE OF THE EMOTION, HE MIGHT FEEL PITY FOR BUSTER WITWICKY.
NEXT: DEVASTATION DERBY!